

**Minutes for:  
RUSSELL CO PDB  
January 12, 2009**

The meeting was called to order by Russell County Judge Executive Mickey Garner.

Roll Call. Members in attendance were as follows:

Mickey Garner, CJE/Chairman PDB	PRESENT
Greg Popplewell, RC Magistrate	PRESENT
Judge Vernon Miniard, Chief Circuit Judge	NOT PRESENT
Judge James Lawson, Chief District Judge	PRESENT
Tony Kerr, RC Circuit Clerk	PRESENT
Gail Wilson, State Bar Association	PRESENT
Kevin Shearer, Co-Chairman PDB	PRESENT
Ronald Hopper, Citizen at Large	NOT PRESENT
 Garlan Vanhook, AOC	 PRESENT

The floor was opened to the first order of business, which was to read and approve the minutes of the December 8, 2008 meeting. Motion made by Tony Kerr to approve the minutes, Seconded by Gail Wilson. All others were in favor.

**OLD BUSINESS:**

Judge Garner decided to postpone the architect presentation to wait for Judge Lawson to arrive.

The demolition process is done and they are waiting for the ground to be drier to pack it down some.

Wendell Emerson presented the bonds report showing total expenditures to date of \$737,804.13, interest earned of \$37,034.83 and an ending balance as of 01/09/09 of \$3,592,652.83. The bond market is down at this time.

The only New Business to be discussed was the current bill from Branscum-Pepper Construction for \$1,563.12 for reimbursable expenditures of the Construction Management. Motion made by Kevin Shearer to pay the bill, Seconded by Tony Kerr. All were in favor.

Judge Garner reverted back to the beginning of the agenda to discuss some options that Sean Mathews, with Brandstetter & Carroll had been asked to present. Judge Garner had approached Mr. Mathews and asked him to see if it would be possible to put a jail in the basement of the judicial center instead of parking and storage. Judge Garner has spoken briefly with the board members and has made several trips to Frankfort to speak with AOC about this project to see if it would be possible and/or feasible. (The only board member he hasn't spoken with is Judge Lawson.) This has never been done before and had figured that there would be some complications. So, Judge Garner had Branscum-Pepper and Brandstetter & Carroll to look into the possibility of this plan. The floor was turned over to Garlan Vanhook with AOC. Mr. Vanhook asked that Mr. Mathews present his drawings to the board before any further discussion.

Mr. Vanhook stated that he did not want to say, "no way, this is not approvable". He was candid with Judge Garner and Magistrate Gary Robertson and told them that this would be difficult and that there would probably some hoops to finalize the plans. He did not discourage them from looking into this plan to see if it was a valuable plan.

Before Sean presented his plans, Judge Lawson came into the meeting and Judge Garner explained to him about what was being discussed. Sean presented two alternate plans. The first plan was the current floor plan with the parking spaces and sally port. By taking the storage space, it would be possible to make a

detention center in its place. He then presented the second floor plan. He explained the changes and options if they were to vote on the jail being placed in the bottom floor. The mechanical room, plumbing and prisoner elevator would remain in the same place. The existing floor plan is 11,190 square feet. The addition would be 4,489 square feet including the sally port. This would hold a 75-bed capacity. Judge Garner stated that we could keep Class D felonies in the facility. Sean discussed further about the outside activity area for the prisoners.

Tony Kerr expressed some concerns about holding up the project of the judicial center, but also added that he realized the county's need for a new jail. Steve Branscum, with Branscum-Pepper Constructions, stated that it would add a few months to the overall project. Discussion and comments continued from the board about the addition of a jail in the basement. Wendell Emerson, with Ross, Sinclair and Associates, stated that the payments could be made on the new jail from the money that we would save from paying other counties to transport our prisoners to and from other counties. Currently, the Fiscal Court is paying around \$400,000 to transport prisoners and payments on a new jail would be approximately \$364,000 each year. Mr. Garner was looking for an avenue to build a jail without raising taxes.

Mr. Vanhook expressed his concerns with regard to building the jail in the judicial center would take away from the future growth of the judicial center, which is the purpose of building a new center. He also expressed concerns about the secure parking areas and the overall delay of the building process, along with other issues that would be brought about by adding a jail. There would be "problems" about "sharing" expenses of repairs to the building, etc. If this plan were to be approved by the Project Development Board, it would also have to go before two other committees before anything else could be done. Mr. Vanhook didn't want to sound negative about the idea, but urged the board to look at building a jail behind the judicial center and having an access from the jail to the center via a tunnel or walkway connecting the two buildings.

After much discussion about the pros and cons, Judge Garner asked what the board's feelings were concerning the jail. Judge Lawson said that he felt that they needed to stay on course and build the justice center. All members of the board concurred. The board felt that having a jail in the basement would not be valuable or productive. With this decision, Judge Garner will seek further sites for building a jail. With only four life-safety jails left in the state of Kentucky (including Russell County), our jail will be closed soon. Everyone agreed that the county needs a new jail, but that it needs to be a different project. Mr. Vanhook commended Judge Garner for trying to save the county money and to make use of an existing building.

Mr. Vanhook stated that there will be a Facilities Standard Committee meeting in Frankfort on February 12, 2009. If the board would like to bring another idea to the meeting, he could put us on the agenda. Judge Garner said that he will keep that in mind.

The next meeting will be February 9, 2009 at 4:30 CST. Meeting was adjourned.